

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00259 251924Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01

ACDA-19 DRC-01 IO-14 DPW-01 /152 W

----- 065030

P R 251232Z APR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 933

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0259

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH CONFLICT

REF: BAGHDAD 235

1. GOI CONTINUING TO IMPLEMENT KURDISH AUTONOMY PLAN WITH APPARENT DISREGARD FOR ARMED CLASHES IN NORTH AND HARD-LINE STATEMENTS COMING OUR OF BARZANI HDQS THROUGH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. MOST NOTABLE STEPS WERE APPOINTMENT OF TAHA MUHYIDDIN MAROUF, IRAQ'S AMBASSADOR TO ROME AND A KURD, AS VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC AND ANNOUNCEMENT BY PARTY
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00259 251924Z

LEADER NAEM HADDAD ON APRIL 20 THAT KURDISH LEGISLATIVE

COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE FORMED. NEWLY APPOINTED KURDISH MINISTER AZIZ AQRAWI VISITED GOVERNORATE OF ARBIL TO BEGIN REORGANIZATION OF KDP WITHOUT BRAZANI. AQRAWI MAY SOON FORMALLY BRING RUMP KDP INTO NATIONAL FRONT. NO MENTION IN BAGHDAD PRESS OF CLASHES IN NORTH, BUT I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT AIR FORCE IS NOW IN ACTION AGAINST SELECTED TARGETS. APRIL 25 DEADLINE OF AMNESTY FOR DESERTERS HAS PASSED WITH NO INDICATION THAT KURDISH OFFICIALS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS.

2. FRENCH COUNSELOR TOLD ME APRIL 24 THAT A BRIGADE HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SINJAR AREA. SUPPOSITION IS THAT ITS MISSION WILL BE TO SEAL SYRIAN BORDER AND MOVE NORTH TO RELIEVE GARRISON AT DOHUK AND REGAIN CONTROL OF PRINCIPAL BORDER CROSSING TO TURKEY. FRENCH ALSO HAVE REPORT THAT MAJORITY OF SENIOR OFFICERS ARE RELUCTANT TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO FIGHT IN MOUNTAINS AND VIVIDLY RECALL UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS OF 1961-70. IN ADDITION, 25 PERCENT OF ENLISTED MEN ARE KURDS AND NEW OFFENSIVE CARRIES RISK OF MORE DESERTIONS.

3. INDIAN EMBOFF NAIRAM TOLD ME THAT MAJOR CLASHES BEGAN TAKING PLACE ABOUT APRIL 22 AND AIR FORCE HAD ATTACKED SEVERAL VILLAGES ON SULAIMANIYA-KIRKUK ROAD. HE ALSO SAID BATTALION OF SPECIAL FORCES HAD BEEN FLOWN FROM BAGHDAD TO ARBIL ON APRIL 22.
LOWRIE

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NNN

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